of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.

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President's Message - November 2014



As the season is winding down it seems natural to look back and reflect on our performance and operations over the past year; what worked, what didn't and where we can improve. In that vein, I wanted to share some observations from my perspective about our Association.

At the beginning of the year the Board of Directors established several

goals and I believe we have made significant progress towards some and have work to do on others. Perhaps the most important goal was to attempt to make our events more attractive and beneficial to our members. Golf Chairman Jason VanBuskirk finalized our meeting schedule well in advance so that everyone could plan accordingly. We visited some new facilities, held joint meetings with the Cape Cod and Rhode Island groups and we are continually looking for ways to improve the relevancy and attendance of our events. Along those lines, Brian Skinner and Mark Casey started a new concept for GCSANE this year with the Demo Day held at Blue Hill Country Club back in June. The Demo Day was an opportunity to see the latest in equipment, services and products from our vendors on the golf course. We are considering whether to make this an annual or bi-annual event in the future and welcome your input. We had excellent turnouts for the S&B in June and the Member/Guest at Dedham in October and hope to build on that in the future. Mike Luccini, Brian Skinner and Mark Casey have also been working to add a new twist to our Annual Meeting, which will be held on January 13th at Fenway Park! The idea was to try something new with the meeting venue and offer some stimulating education. We are happy to announce that Steve Keating will deliver a presentation on 360 degree leadership. Steve is a dynamic and entertaining presenter who speaks with experience on sales, motivation, team building and leadership. Steve's services are much in demand and he has worked for companies such as Toro and Dale Carnegie. We will gather at the infamous 600 Club with a sweeping view of the park as the backdrop. Several of our Friends have already stepped up to help sponsor the event. We are very excited about this day and hope you will view it as a "must attend" event. More details to follow - don't miss out!

Another goal was to maintain fiscal responsibility and credit goes to our Finance Chairman Don D'Errico and Association Manager Don Hearn for ensuring we manage expenses to budget. We have slowly and deliberately over the past few years developed a small reserve fund to assist with cash flow needs and to provide a means of funding unique or unanticipated expenses. We will be using a portion of this fund to help subsidize the cost of our Annual Meeting at Fenway and to keep the attendance fee as low as possible.

Behind the scenes, our Treasurer Mike Luccini has devoted his time to establishing a charitable trust for our scholarship and benevolence fund. This was an important step to ensure that the fund will be administered and managed properly and be a source of financial assistance for future generations of members.

Government Relations chair Peter Rappoccio has had an active agenda for his oversight of regulatory issues. He has been working with our lobbyist in representing our interests on pending legislation related to fertilizer usage and further regulations for work in or around wetlands.

I also want to recognize Don Hearn, for whom I have the utmost respect and appreciation. Don is a consummate professional and has quickly become our ambassador. I know he has a deep connection to our association and wants to support and help further the profession in any way he can. We are fortunate to have him out front and hope he continues to do so for many years to come.

Like any team, organization or association, it is the contribution from each individual that makes the group what it is. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team on the GCSANE board and I want to thank those who have worked with great effort on our behalf and will be stepping off the board this year.

Scott Lagana has served 9 years with terms as Finance Chairman, Treasurer and Vice President. During that time, Scott helped to improve our financial condition and reporting. He developed new procedures for electronic voting and produced communications for the press and allied associations to help support our members in the wake of the winter injury experienced this spring. Scott also headed up past nominating committees and was successful in bringing several new

GCSANE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark Gagne 233 Baker Street, Walpole, MA 02081 508-668-3859 Fax: 508-668-9969 Email: Mgagne@walpolec.org Walpole Country Club

VICE PRESIDENT

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TREASURER

Michael Luccini, CGCS 10 Griffin Road, Franklin, MA 02038 508-520-3615 Fax: 508-528-1885 Email: Mluccini@verizon.net Franklin Country Club

SECRETARY

David W. Johnson 399 Parker Road Osterville, MA 02655 508-428-6981 Djohnson.wgc@verizon.net Wianno Club

TRUSTEE (Membership)

Jeffrey Urquhart
70 Green Lodge Street, Canton, MA 02021
781-828-2953 Fax 781-828-3220
Email: jmartin101@gmail.com
Milton-Hoosic Club

TRUSTEE (Government Relations)

Peter J. Rappoccio 246 ORNAC, Concord, MA 01742 978-371-1089 Fax: 978-369-7231 Email: gcs@concordcc.org Concord Country Club

TRUSTEE (Scholarship & Benevolence)

David Stowe, CGCS 30 Western Avenue, Natick, MA 01760 617-789-4631 Fax 617-789-4631 Email: Newtonmaint@aol.com Newton Commonwealth Golf Club

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GOLF CHAIRMAN

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EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

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ASSOCIATION MANAGER

Donald E. Hearn, CGCS 300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766 774-430-9040 Fax: 774-430-9101 Email: donhearn@gcsane.org

BUSINESS MANAGER, THE NEWSLETTER

Julie Heston Phone: (401) 934-7660 Email: jheston@verizon.net

GCSANE Headquarters 300 Arnold Palmer Blvd., Norton, MA 02766 Tel: (774) 430-9040 Fax: (774) 430-9101 Web Site: www.gcsane.org

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President's Message - continued from page 1

directors to the board during a time when it seems more difficult to find members with the opportunity and willingness to serve.

Back in 2008, we created a new position on the board, that of Affiliate Trustee. The position was created as a way to improve on the communication and connection between our Superintendent and Affiliate members. I want to say that in the past 4 years Mark Casey has done exactly that with energy and enthusiasm. Mark helped to pioneer our Partner Promotion Program (PPP), which has become very successful and a popular way for our Friends and Affiliates to conveniently support our efforts.

Tom Albert took over as Editor of The Newsletter this year and did a fine job of keeping our communications timely, relevant and interesting. It's not an easy job to do every month, but Tom and his team managed to make it happen while upgrading the presentation.

Jason Adams will be stepping down as Past President after an impressive 14 years of service on the board. Jason graciously hosted this year's Demo Day and also helped cultivate and guide several new board members to nomination. We will miss Jason's thoughtful advice and counsel.

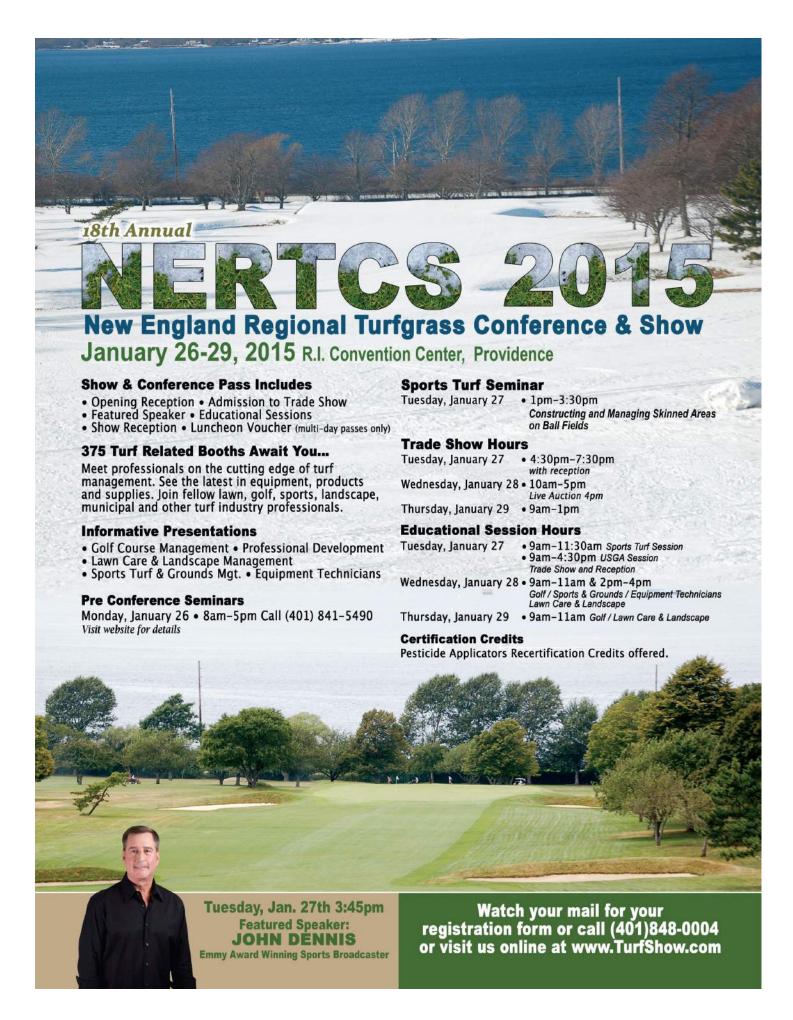
This will be my last President's message before passing the gavel in January. I want to say that I have sincerely enjoyed this opportunity and am grateful to have served the Association over the years. Like most things in life, I found the more effort I put into the role, the more I learned and benefitted from the experience. If you have or are giving consideration to becoming more involved in your association through board or committee service, I would strongly recommend you do so. If you have not been to a meeting before or it's been some time since you did so, make the effort to network with your peers and build or strengthen relationships with others in our industry for mutual benefit. There are challenges ahead but if I've learned nothing else during my time on the board it is that our members are a dynamic and resourceful group that can rise to most any occasion.

Best wishes to you and your family for a safe, restful and happy holiday season. <

Mark

Mark Gagne GCSANE President





Thoughts From Your Association Manager

I was talking recently with a friend about life in general and how our futures had changed from where we thought we'd be at this time in our lives. Fortunately, I'm very happy with what I do even though it's different from what I thought I'd be doing at this stage of my life.

I'm sure you've had thoughts about your future. For some it's a scary process. Others look at it as part of the wonderful journey they imagine will be their future. I believe fear of, or confidence in, the future depends on age. Yes, I too, was a young person with dreams of being at what I thought at the time would be the top of my profession. Becoming the superintendent at a "very prestigious club" hosting a US Open Championship was my dream. Over time I realized this was not reality for me. The more involved with the profession I became the more real-life situations I experienced and those real-life situations helped me understand that life isn't just about being at a "good" club. In fact, life has little to do with being at a "good" club. When you think about it, what is a "good club"? To some, it might be one where the members are doing well financially and budgets haven't been squeezed tightly. To others, a good club might be one where major championships are always on the horizon. Still others believe a good club is one where the longevity of the staff employed is an indicator of just how good a club really is. Obviously, a good club is different things to different people. I'd be very interested to know how you feel about the club, course or company you work for. Please let me know your thoughts.

The rescheduled annual Assistants Tournament was played at the William J. Devine Golf Course, October 30. Russ Heller served as the host Superintendent. Thirty-two players attended and first place was taken by Tim Clapp and Matt Gajda from Kernwood Country Club. Second place was won by Andrew Lamy and Ben Pacific from Nashawtuc Country Club. The Assistant "closest to the hole" event was won by Ben Pacific and the "long drive" was won by Dave Gaetano from Hatherly Country Club. We're always looking for ideas and ways to make this event one where we can really show the Assistants that their long hours and hard work are recognized. Any Assistant wishing to suggest something that would make for a better event is welcome to make suggestions and can do so by sending your thoughts along to me.

Sassamon Trace Golf Course was the site of the season ending nine-hole meeting. The course was in excellent condition, the weather was beautiful and host superintendent Kris Armando, GM Pete Meagher and Assistant Golf Professional Kurt McDowell went out of their way to make us feel welcome at Sassamon.

The day's first place winners were our host Kris Armando, Milton-Hoosic Superintendent Jeff Urquhart and GCSAA Field Representative Kevin Doyle. Joe Piana, Dennis Friel, Ed Downing and Mike Hermanson placed second. Closest to the hole was won by Joe Farina.



From left: Kris Armando, Jeff Urquhart and Kevin Doyle

The New England Golf Course Owners Association (NEGCOA) held their annual meeting November 12 at the Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton, MA. More than one hundred attendees consisting of owners, superintendents, golf professionals, managers, golf administrators, commercial representatives and others made up the audience. It was a very interesting and informative day and one where Foot Golf and Fling Golf were explained. These two types of playing a game were shown with the hope they are ways people could be introduced to a game that can be played on a golf course. It's a different way of getting people on a facility that, in most cases, already exists and can provide a revenue source and a way for people to have fun. It will be interesting to see if these variations of the game are successful. Congratulations to Elaine Gebhardt, the NEGCOA's Executive Director for organizing such a well attended event.



Executive Director Elaine Gebhardt addressing attendees at the NEGCOA Annual Meeting

Kevin Doyle - GCSAA Updates



What is all the buzz about? From Europe to Washington, D.C., State to Washington State and nearly every place between, the plight of honey bees has been on the main stage. After attending the Pollinator Summit (presented by the New Jersey Green Industry Council) and Dr. Daniel Potter's keynote address at the New York State Turfgrass Associ-

ation Turf and Grounds Exposition, I have come to learn a lot about the critical role pollinators play in our world. Like turf, there are internal and external stresses that can upset the balance of the hive and industry. Oh and there are politics, lots of politics. There is also science, emotion and a host of other factors involved in the discussion. While the issues continue to swarm, let's take a quick peek at golf's footprint in this issue.

What role does turf play in the pollinator discussion? Neonicotinoid class insecticides (neonics), often used as a preventative for white grubs, have been shown to have adverse effect on pollinators. The degree to which they affect the beneficial insects often has more to do with which side of the political issue you wish to argue. While this situation is unfortunate it definitely can create disruption in turf right here in the Northeast region. Just this past year alone, legislative measures took place in New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Maine to ban the use of neonics. Beekeepers in Vermont joined one superintendent at the committee hearing to assist

in educating the legislators as to the minimal role neonics play in pollinator issues. Stephanie Darnell, technical development manager, Bayer CropScience, cited a survey of beekeepers that placed pesticides as the seventh most important stress factor to those in the bee industry, with varroa mite at the top of the list.

While none of the above mentioned legislation efforts were successful, it opens up the "what if" discussion. Without this useful tool, turf managers could be pushed to use more volatile chemicals, such as organophosphate and carbamate insecticides, to control the same pests. These options are much less environmentally friendly, more costly and potentially more harmful to non-target pests. What can turf managers do with regards to our friendly pollinators?

<u>Develop stewardship practices:</u> Learn about our role as land managers and the stresses regarding honey bees. Develop spray programs with the sensitivities of pollinators in mind

<u>Support research</u>: Emotion and regulation can often outpace research needed to answer vital questions, and this issue is no exception. Remain vigilant regarding the latest research, and adjust your practices as needed.

<u>Be part of the solution:</u> It is so often overlooked that the golf industry undertakes environmental initiatives simply because it is the right thing to do. The changing landscape is

continued on page 6

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Association Manager - continued from page 4

Recently I had a member tell me that a meeting cost seemed more expensive than usual. Sometimes meetings are on the high side of what some think is an acceptable amount. Because of this I thought it would be a good time to explain how the cost of a meeting is determined. In most cases the host superintendent is able to get us a reduced price for the food and beverage. Though this doesn't happen all the time. Some clubs will waive the green fee. Some won't, but will offer a discounted green fee instead. Most clubs will charge the full rate for golf cars. So what we have to pay for is not the same for each meeting. When a member agrees to host a meeting he does what he can to make the cost as low as possible, but not all clubs are willing or able to reduce the cost to the level everyone would agree is reasonable. The Association is not in a position to tell the club what we'll pay. We are thankful when Superintendents step up to host an event and try to negotiate a good price with their club, but we realize not everyone can do this. At some clubs coffee and pastries are supplied on a complimentary basis. At others there is a charge. Depending on the cost, we at times forego this as an option. At some sites we have only lunch and golf and the day ends at the end of the round. Some clubs make it practical to have lunch, golf, and hors d'oeuvres after the round and the price is such that it makes sense to have this type of setup. In addition, we offer reduced fees at some events for retired members, all retired members are invited to attend the August meeting as guests of the Association, and complimentary registrations are also part of our costs. Occasionally things pop up that aren't expected. The goal is to break even. We're always looking for good ideas, so if you have one to share please let a board member or me know about it.

By Don Hearn

Kevin Doyle - continued from page 5

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you \underline{G} et \underline{C} ool \underline{S} tuff from your \underline{A} ssociation \underline{A} lready:

Compliance counseling

Are you in compliance with the laws and regulations that affect your job and the golf course? GCSAA members can contact the public policy staff for free compliance counseling, information and resources on the following laws and regulations that affect your job and the golf course:

- Employee training
- Hazard communication
- Chemical use and storage
- Environmental protection
- Workplace safety
- Wetlands protection and conservation
- OSHA recordkeeping
- Child labor laws
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Material safety data sheets
- Personal protective equipment
- · Fuel storage tanks
- And many more

New Compliance Deadline: Use of Nemacur (fenamiphos) products extended until Oct. 6, 2017

The EPA has granted GCSAA's request for an extension on the use of fenamiphos (Nemacur nematicide) existing stocks labeled for use on golf courses until Oct. 6, 2017. Nemacur is used to control the major genera of nematodes attacking turfgrass including root knot, root lesion, sting, lane and rink nematodes. Contact Chava McKeel, associate director, government relations, for more information.

About the Plant Health Academy

The objective of the <u>Healthy Turf, Healthy Tomorrow</u> Plant Health Academy is to provide golf course superintendents with opportunities to learn more about innovative plant health research and practices for the benefit of their facilities, individual careers and the industry. <u>Learn more about Plant Health Academy and view photos from the 2013 and 2014 events.</u>

The Plant Health Academy offers two two-and-a-half-day education and training sessions for golf course superintendents. The sessions will be held at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., on April 20-22, 2015 and at the Bayer Training and Development Center in Clayton, N.C., from Sept. 16-18, 2015.

Twelve superintendents will be selected for this unique opportunity to collaborate with industry experts and expand their knowledge on key industry plant health issues and trends.

To be considered, superintendents must complete the application and respond to two essay questions. Applicants must be employed as a golf course superintendent within the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii, a Class A or Superintendent member (SM) of the GCSAA and be enrolled In Bayer's MyBayerRewards customer loyalty program.

Golf Industry Show general registration open

Be sure to spread the word that general registration is now open for the 2015 Golf Industry Show, Feb. 21-26 in San Antonio. Visit the new website for details on education opportunities, the trade show, events and attendee resources. **New Golf Industry Show website launched**

continued on page 8



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<u>GCSAA Grassroots Network - Building our Grassroots</u> Army

Advocacy is one of the most powerful ways to impact public policy. Successful association advocacy and lobbying efforts depend upon establishing strong relationships with elected officials. Ad hoc advocacy makes it hard to build strong, long -term relationships with elected officials and have a positive impact on policy decisions.

The GCSAA Grassroots Network is a new, dedicated group of GCSAA members who want to engage in the association's government relations efforts. Individuals in the GCSAA Grassroots Network also have the opportunity to serve as a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador. GCSAA will give its Grassroots Ambassadors personalized training on building relationships with Members of Congress.

Ambassadors Update by State:

Massachusetts: 4 Connecticut: 5 New Jersey: 1 New York: 6 New Hampshire: 1

Vermont: 1

There is still a great need for more support of this program from all northeast states. If you have any questions regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

- Dec. 4: Science & Perception: Communicating Environmental Issues with a Scientifically Semi-Literate Society
- Dec. 10: Legume Inclusion: a path towards greener golf course management
- <u>Dec. 18: From the Trenches to the Trencher: Leader-ship Transition</u>

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me. .

Kevin Doyle GCSAA Field Staff kdoyle@gcsaa.org

Follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_NE



How to Respond to a Road Raged Driver

We've all done it. We've cut someone off in traffic, or been cut off and responded inappropriately. Unfortunately, today that means we put ourselves at risk for road rage and violence. Here are a few things you can do to help yourself stay safe.

Don't engage. If you find yourself in a tangle with another driver, back off and give them some space. This is hard to do, but letting them "win" could short-circuit any further problems. If the other driver begins to drive recklessly, slow down and change your route. The last thing you want is to be in a traffic accident with this person.

Never leave your car. You can roll-up your windows and lock your doors and this will put reinforced steel and fairly thick glass between you. This alone does not ensure your safety, but it will act as a buffer. If the other driver begins to follow you, do not drive to your home or place of work. If you know the location of the local police or fire station, this is your best option. If that is not an option, drive to a public place such as a mall but do not drive into enclosed spaces such as parking structures.

Immediately dial 911. When placing a call from your wireless phone, it is important to know your call is initially routed to the Massachusetts State Police and then transferred to the appropriate first responder. It is essential to remember the following when calling 911 from a wireless phone:

- Tell the emergency operator your location right away.
- Give the operator your wireless phone number so that if the call gets disconnected, the operator can call you back.
- If your wireless phone is not "initialized" (i.e., if you have a pre-paid phone or any other type of wireless phone that does not have a contract for service with a wireless service provider), and your emergency call gets disconnected, you must call the emergency operator back because he or she does not have your telephone number and cannot contact you.

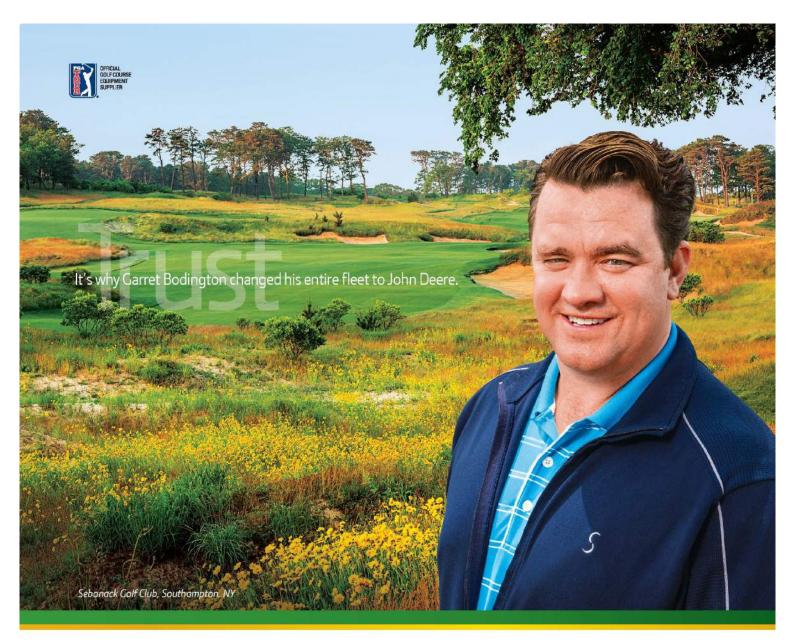
Remember when speaking to police dispatch, tell them all you can about the vehicle and the driver. If you don't think you're getting the attention you need, do whatever it takes to keep yourself safe. DO NOT embellish the circumstances; this could cause you to get arrested for filing a false police report. If it means laying on your horn and turning on your hazard lights, do it. Your safety is important. After the incident, when you've calmed down, reexamine the events that took place. It doesn't matter what you or he/she did or whose fault it is, try to figure out what you can do differently next time to avoid dealing with lunatic road rage. Let it go, let the other person "win."

NOTE: State Police are Eliminating *SP and *MSP: "9-1-1 SAVES LIVES"

The Massachusetts State Police and the State 911 Department would like to remind motorists to dial 9-1-1 for all roadway emergencies. This is a fundamental cornerstone to ensuring a prompt emergency response of police, fire or EMS personnel. When you dial 9-1-1 on your wireless phone, vital information is presented to State Police dispatch personnel, including your approximate location. The dispatchers assess the information and notify the appropriate State Police barracks or the local authorities of jurisdiction. ❖

By Don Hearn





With the US Women's Open coming to Sebonack in 2013, Garret Bodington made the decision to go with John Deere. Why? "John Deere gave us tremendous support for the Women's Open, from existing equipment to loaners. Also, the E-Cut™ Hybrid technology was a big selling point. We use E-Cuts on every fairway and every green." From E-Cut Hybrid technology to heavy-duty utility vehicles, Garret trusts his entire course to John Deere. To see the difference we can make on your course and call your John Deere Golf distributor today.

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DIVOT DRIFT... announcements ... educational seminars ... job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GCSANE Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar: The date for the Annual Meeting is **January 13, 2015**. The location is Fenway Park! This will be a day packed with Association business, a dynamic speaker, raffles, an optional tour of the park and a funfilled day at Fenway!

Details will be sent later this month.

Nor'Easter Ski Day 2015

Well, it's that time of year again... summer is over and we're waiting for the snow to fly! The Nor'easter Ski Committee is happy to announce the 2015 Ski Day is once again going to be held at Killington Ski Resort and the date this winter is March 5th, 2015. Killington will again honor their great rates through that weekend, March 5-8th, so if you have a group of guys that were looking to do a long weekend skiing together, keep that in mind as you plan your trips!

We will have the website up and running live on December 1st for registration. There will also be great sponsorship opportunities once again this year for those that can help out!

Thanks all! If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at any time!

The Nor'easter Ski Committee

Ken Lallier Kevin Komer Chris Strong John Bresnahan Brian Goudey Fred Montgomery Chris Cowan Andy Drohen

Andy Drohen

andy.drohen@kochind.com or 413-685-5469

As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print each and every release **free of charge**. This is a great way to advertise for free. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.





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Please Patronize these FRIENDS of the ASSOCIATION

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